**Rural health care**

969. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRI R.P. GOENKA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fresh multi-sectoral package for rural health care has been formulated;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the strategy drawn up for using the existing primary health centres and community health centres, for implementing the programme;

(c) the details of the role assigned to and the financial obligation of the States; and

(d) other measures taken to bridge the gap between urban India and poor Indians by improvised rural health care plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes Sir, such a proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) The proposal aims at launching a National Rural Health Care Mission through out the country, with focus on 17 States including 8 EAG States (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Uttaranchal), 8 North Eastern States (Meghalaya, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam) and Jammu and Kashmir. It is proposed to upgrade and operationalise Sector PHCs and CHCs for improved referral and hospital care in these 17 States, under the Mission.

(c) The details of the scheme are being finalized.

(d) The RCH-I programme of the Government has emphasized on strengthening rural health infrastructure through major and minor civil works; improved availability of medical and paramedical personnel through contractual engagements; holding RCH camps and Outreach camp in 'C category districts for improved access to health services etc. Recently, the Government of India has sanctioned 8669 new sub centres all over the country.